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Sixty-Fifth Anniversary of St. James' Church, WINNIPEG

THE parish of St. James' has the enviable distinction of possessing the oldest church of any denomination in the great capital city of Western Canada. The original Church of St. John's, lying well to the north side of the city, was built in the year 1823, but was taken down, and the present Cathedral building was not erected till 1862. Thus the Church of St. James' has the privilege of claiming to be the oldest church, though not the oldest parish.

The first Rector of St. James' parish was the Rev. W. H. Taylor, who came out as a missionary from St. James', Chirb, Worcestershire, England. After a long journey by land and sea he came to the lonely province which lay between the most northerly city of the United States and the settlement on the Red River. After six weeks' travel over this wilderness, exposed, as he himself wrote, to the savage attacks of Indians and wild beasts, he rejoiced to see the cosy cottages

Vineyard, and in 1867 he relinquished the position and returned to England. It was some time before a successor was secured, for not till November, 1868, does the name of the Rev. Cyprian Pinkham, the present Lord Bishop of Calgary, appear on the vestry records.

In 1881 the Rev. Mr. Pinkham resigned the incumbency and was succeeded by the late Canon A. E. Cowley, who remained in charge for twenty-eight years. In 1909 Mr. Cowley resigned, having seen the parish grow from barren prairie into a thickly-populated district. He was followed by the late Rev. G. I. Armstrong, an Irishman of great ability and lovable character, who, in the brief three years he lived to minister in the parish made many warm friends.

From time to time alterations and repairs have been made on the building. The tower from which the bell pealed out to welcome the arrival of

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lying along the banks of the Red River.

He went immediately to attend to the needs of the settlers, who had made homes along the bank of the Assiniboine River. A rectory was built and preparations made for the construction of a place of worship. The flood of 1852, however, swept the logs away to the lake, and in sorrow Mr. Taylor had to write home to the Old Land that the building of the new church had to be put off for another year. He was not so soon to see the fulfilment of his desires. On June 8th, 1853, amidst great rejoicing, the foundation-stone was laid by Mayor Caldwell, and Bishop Anderson gave the address. In the corner-stone were placed one each of the coins of the realm and an almanac from England. It was difficult to get material and hard to secure competent help. The building, therefore, was not completed for two years. On May 29th, 1855, Bishop Anderson consecrated another church in the wilderness to the glory of God. The set of Communion vessels, still being used, was presented by the people of Chirb, England, the ladies of St. Cross College carved two chairs for the chancel, and gifts of books and money were sent out by the missionary societies of England.

For fourteen years Mr. Taylor laboured in this part of the Master's

the first steamboat that reached Fort Garry, from which the settlers watched the rebel forces surprise and capture the volunteers, was taken down about 1873 and never replaced. In 1876 "cracks and crevices were filled up with mortar and the church bunked up," because it was not "in a fit condition to hold service in and appears to be gradually coming down."

Again in 1879 the question of repairs was brought up, and a sum of \$1,500 was required to put the building in shape. Further improvements were made in 1893, and in 1909 the old pews, the high pulpit and antiquated desks were moved and the building made thoroughly modern.

During the last five years the debts of the parish have been liquidated, and, as the building has become too small to accommodate the growing congregation, a new site has been secured and preparation is being made for the erection of a large and well-equipped church.

At the anniversary services the Rev. F. C. Ward-Whate, M.A., of Nova Scotia, preached in the morning. He pointed out the need for a message from the Church suitable to the demands of the age. In the evening the Rev. Canon Matheson preached on the inspiration which comes out of the past for the work of the present.